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461 Eliot

Existing Conditions:

The existing building at 461 Eliot was the former St. Peter Claver church constructed in 1897 in the Gothic Revival style of architecture using a warm, orangish color brick for the masonry. It was built by the mason George D. Duncan originally for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, later being sold in 1914 to become St. Peter Claver, St. Peter Claver was the first Roman Catholic parish founded expressly to serve black congregants.

At a date unknown, both the church proper and the Rectory/Community House directly south across Eliot Street were sold to Matrix Human Services which provided community based services to the area including such services as day-care.

The overall building remains in relatively good shape considering it has been vacant for a number of years. Some of the original windows have been simply boarded over or protected with a storm window. The reddish/orange brick masonry is in excellent condition only requiring minor tuckpointing. The roof is now an asphalt shingle roof, again in good shape, only requiring minor repairs to the building.

A number of small revisions have been made to the exterior including adding a steel stair at the rear of the building to provide a second means of egress and an exhaust hood is visible on the north face serving a kitchen in the basement. An accessibility ramp was added along the north side of the church.

On the interior the main, congregant nave area remains. At some point an elevator was added to access the basement and a ramp was added at one side to provide access to the main altar area at the front of the church. The original unique, x-shaped trusses supporting the roof and aligning with the brick piers on the exterior of the church remain although everything through the nave assembly space has been painted white including the structural elements.